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A STORY WE'RE TOO USED TO

Of 20 capital projects, a city report pegs 17 that are delayed or over budget — or both

metroNEWS



**Milner
Library**

**Northwest
Police Campus**

**Walterdale
Bridge**

'Beautiful young girl'

TRAGEDY

Family and friends mourn girl, 13, killed at crosswalk



Jeremy Simes
Metro | Edmonton

Mariama Sillah was an outgoing girl who liked her books.

Friends and family remembered Sillah Monday, after she was struck and killed by an Edmonton Transit bus driver in a marked crosswalk in the city's northwest Saturday.

Sillah's aunt, Dula Kamara, said Sillah was a "beautiful young girl."

"She was smart and liked in school," Kamara said.

Clem Yonge, a family friend, said Sillah wasn't shy.

"She liked going to school," he said. "She was very outgoing."

The family has been extremely busy arranging her funeral, Kamara added.

On Sunday, the city said it has launched a "full operational review" to prevent further pedestrian collisions following Sillah's death.

City manager Linda Cochrane said the review will help the city learn what it might have been unaware of.

Police continue to investigate and don't believe speed and alcohol were factors in the collision.

Kamara said Sillah was born in Sierra Leone. The family moved to Toronto in 2004 and later relocated to Edmonton.



Mariama Sillah CONTRIBUTED

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Alberta faces \$10.8B deficit

BUDGET
But 25K jobs have been created, says minister

Alberta's fiscal outlook for this year is a tiny bit better, but still billions of dollars in the red.

Finance Minister Joe Ceci says the estimated deficit for this year has been revised to \$10.8 billion, slightly lower than the \$10.9 billion forecast three months ago.

"(It's) a small but measurable improvement," Ceci told reporters at the legislature Tuesday as he gave the second-quarter update for the 2016-17 budget.

Ceci said there are signs that an economy bludgeoned by low and oil gas prices is stabilizing.

Some 25,000 new jobs have been created in the last three months, most in the oil and gas sector, while the housing market stabilizes and the population grows, he said.

Real GDP, which is expected to fall by 2.8 per cent this year due to the effects of last spring's vast Fort McMurray wildfire, is expected to rebound and grow by 2.3 per cent next year, Ceci said.

The fire, which displaced thousands of residents and forced a temporary shutdown of oilsands operations, was blamed in the last update for increasing the projected budget deficit by \$500 million.

Alberta remains mired in an economic downturn due to the prolonged slump in oil and gas prices. Thousands of jobs have



Alberta Finance Minister Joe Ceci called the revised deficit estimate 'a small but measurable improvement'. AMBER BRACKEN/THE CANADIAN PRESS

“The government is like spoiled kids at a house party. They know they don't have to clean up the mess, so they don't care how big the mess is. Ric McIver

been lost and the unemployment rate in Calgary is above 10 per cent.

Government expenses this year are forecast to reach \$52.8

billion, which is about \$1.7 billion higher than expected when the budget was introduced in the spring.

Total revenue is pegged at

\$42.7 billion, which is \$1.3 billion higher than first estimated.

Corporate income tax revenue, however, now is forecast at \$3.4 billion, a decrease of \$877 million from the budget. Borrowing for capital projects is \$4.7 billion and the province is borrowing another \$6.4 billion for operating expenses.

By the end of the fiscal year, Alberta's debt is expected to hit \$31.2 billion, with more

than \$1 billion spent on debt-servicing costs.

The government's plan is to balance the books by 2024.

Premier Rachel Notley has decided not to slash public-sector jobs or capital spending while it rides out low energy prices.

Critics, however, say the looming debt load — projected to hit \$58 billion by the end of the decade — will punish future generations with debilitating interest payments.

Opposition Wildrose Leader Brian Jean told the legislature during question period that debt payments have real-life impacts.

"Today's announcement means every Alberta household will owe \$56,000 in debt by 2019," said Jean.

"Eventually governments run out of spending other people's money and have to pay back the banks."

Interim Progressive Conservative Leader Ric McIver said the government keeps promising to bring in a plan to pay down the deficit, but has shown no progress to date.

And the 25,000 jobs, he said, are mostly part time.

"The new answers that they promised Albertans? They don't have any," said McIver.

"The government is like spoiled kids at a house party. They know they don't have to clean up the mess, so they don't care how big the mess is."

McIver said the government has made a difficult situation much worse by raising corporate taxes and bringing in a broad-based carbon tax.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

SEX ASSAULT TRIAL

Victim had 'buyer's remorse': Defence

A lawyer for a man facing a sex assault retrial after the original judge asked the complainant why she didn't keep her knees closed says the alleged victim had a case of "buyer's remorse."

Alexander Wagar, 29, was acquitted in 2014 by Judge Robin Camp, who ruled Wagar was a more credible witness than the 19-year-old complainant. Camp called her "the accused" throughout that trial and asked her, "Why couldn't you just keep your knees together?" He also told her "pain and sex sometimes go together."

In his closing arguments Monday, defence lawyer Pat Flynn said there had been "evasiveness" in the complainant's testimony throughout the trial and Wagar isn't guilty of sexual assault.

"This was a consensual sex act between two young adults and only after the sex act did the young lady, in effect change her mind, sir," Flynn said. "To be honest with the court, this is almost a buyer's remorse type of situation"

But Crown prosecutor Janice Walsh said the alleged victim "testified without artifice, guile or embellishment." The young woman also didn't dodge any questions or make things up

"The Crown urges the court to review the facts. It has proven Mr. Wagar's guilt beyond a reasonable doubt. The Crown goes further and says even, if for some reason, you do not believe the complainant is credible or reliable on key elements you must find the accused, in his own testimony, has shown himself to be guilty."

THE CANADIAN PRESS



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BILLBOARD CAMPAIGN

Muslim group invites city to learn about their religion



Alex Boyd
Metro | Edmonton

The billboard reads, "Muslims condemn all violence" and has a phone number for Edmontonians to call to learn more about Islam.

Following a wave of hateful anti-Muslim posters in the city, the local branch of the Islamic Circle of North America Sisters is inviting the city to learn about its religion by placing a billboard at 106 Avenue and 101 Street with that message.

The billboard is part of a larger attempt to dispel misconceptions about what the religion is, according to outreach co-ordinator Afshan Fatima.

To that end, the group provided relief help after the Fort Mac fire, reached out to



Afshan Fatima stands in front of the billboard put up by the local chapter of Islamic Circle of North America Sisters to counter misconceptions about Islam. ALEX BOYD/METRO

other faith groups and is planning outreach events at local mosques.

"We're neighbours, our kids go to the same schools," Fatima

said. "It's natural to have concerns, we'd like people to reach out to us, to build bridges, to ask questions."

There have been at least

three waves of anti-Muslim posters and pamphlets being distributed in the city recently, which Fatima calls "concerning."

One of the posters referred to

"We are living together and we need to know each other."

Sajida Asghar

all Muslim men as pedophiles, and had a URL link at the bottom to an anti-Muslim group called Stop Islamization of the World. Another called for the religion to be banned. Police are still investigating.

Fatima calls the messages "hateful" and "xenophobic."

While she says Canada isn't seeing the same shift towards anti-immigration as the United States, she said they'd like to see city residents learn more about the religion.

Sajida Asghar, another member of the group, agrees.

"We are living together and we need to know each other, if you don't know us, how can we live peacefully?"

Both women argue that's what their religion is actually about — peace.

EDUCATION

Schools under budget

Alberta Education Minister Dave Eggen says some of the latest schools to be built in the province came in under budget.

And he adds that bids for the next round of construction are coming in lower than what the province expected. Eggen says that means more new schools could be added to the list.

He says bids are coming in 10 to 20 per cent lower.

Eggen says 32 new schools have opened provincially in the last nine weeks and another dozen are due in January.

The plan is to build 20 to 30 schools in the next round, while overall 230 projects are on the books.

"It's certainly optimistic to see bids are coming in lower and that gives us a lot more latitude on how we can move forward."

Eggen wouldn't say how many more schools might be added to the next construction phase if there is a 10 per cent budget cushion.

A formal announcement is expected in the spring when Finance Minister Joe Ceci tables a budget. THE CANADIAN PRESS



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A report headed to city council Tuesday indicates several high-profile city projects are delayed, over budget or both. METRO FILE

City projects over budget, delayed

COUNCIL

17 out of 20 high-profile ventures off-track: Report



Jeremy Simes
Metro | Edmonton

When it comes to high-profile capital projects, the city isn't doing so hot: 17 out of 20 are either over budget, delayed or both, according to a new report headed to council Tuesday.

Here's our quick breakdown of what's, well, broken or down — or instead, on budget.

1 Milner Library Renewal: Slightly over budget, delayed

City administration is requesting to delay opening the Milner Library Renewal project by nearly two years, from Dec. 31, 2018 to March 31, 2020. Pro-

ject costs are \$6.5-million more than previously budgeted. Edmonton Public Library (EPL) said increased costs were from finding more work needed to improve the building's mechanical and electrical systems. However, EPL says it will retrieve that money through cost-savings found in other projects.

2 Northwest Police Campus: On budget, delayed

The city is requesting the Northwest Police Campus' completion date be pushed by about two years, from Dec. 31, 2017 to March 31, 2019. The delay is due to additional design requirements for the facility. In the preliminary stages of the project, delays included incomplete site selection, site planning and facility programming.

3 Walterdale Bridge: On budget, delayed

The opening of the Walterdale Bridge will again be pushed for another year, largely because

construction crews lost the race against winter weather. The city hopes to open traffic on the bridge in mid-2017, while it'll be entirely completed by December 2017. Ryan Teplitsky, city construction project manager, said the liquid tar membrane (which keeps the concrete underneath waterproof) can't be plastered when it's below freezing or wet. If it's installed during those conditions, it won't stick, meaning the base-structure isn't well protected.

4 Valley Line LRT: On budget, on time

The only high-profile capital project that's on time and on budget, the Valley LRT project has seen tree clearing, road preparation in Louise McKinney Park and soil testing. Work that's expected to be in the beginning of next year include median removals along 66 Street, removing the Cloverdale Pedestrian Bridge, and digging into 102 Avenue for the tunnel.

AIR FORCE

Pilot dead after fighter jet crashes in Western Canada

A pilot is dead after a Canadian CF-18 fighter jet crashed in western Canada during a training mission.

Canadian Forces spokesman Daniel Le Bouthillier confirmed that the pilot died in Monday's crash.

He said the plane was based out of Alberta's Canadian Forces Base Cold Lake, the busiest fighter base in Canada. It provides fighter training

for all Canadian Forces pilots.

Speaking in Ottawa, Air Force commander Lt.-Gen. Michael Hood said the plane came down on the Saskatchewan side of the border between the provinces during a routine training mission.

Defence Minister Harjit Sajjan said he couldn't speculate on what caused the crash. A helicopter from the base was dispatched to the crash site.

The Canadian government announced last week that it would look to buy 18 Super Hornet jet fighters from Boeing to replace Canada's aging fleet of CF-18s. Canada is also holding an open competition to buy dozens more planes over the next five years. Canada remains part of Lockheed Martin's F-35 Joint Strike Fighter program.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Wildrose party Leader Brian Jean says laptops were stolen from party headquarters. METRO FILE

Probe into laptop heist

POLITICS

Wildrose party seeks to calm members after security breach



Jeremy Simes
Metro | Edmonton

The Wildrose says it's not accusing other political parties or groups after thieves swiped laptops and attempted to steal the party's computer server from its headquarters in early November.

In an email issued to supporters late Sunday evening, Wildrose Leader Brian Jean said police are investigating the robbery. He said the party has since moved its computer server off site to a "high-security" location.

Jean said the theft occurred "a number of weeks ago." However, a Wildrose official told Metro on Monday the robbery occurred Nov. 7.

Edmonton Police Service spokeswoman Noreen Remtulla said officers have made no arrests in connection with the robbery, which occurred at 7:15 p.m. that evening.

"Some items from an office, including laptop computers were reported missing," Remtulla said in an email, adding officers continue to investigate.

Although party spokeswoman Samantha Johnston said the party isn't accusing another group over the theft, Jean noted that Wildrose members have

been receiving unsolicited calls and letters from another party.

"I do not know how parts of our membership data appear to have been obtained by organizers in another party, but I have directed staff to investigate this and take all necessary steps to further protect our lists," Jean said in the email.

"I want to be very clear that the unauthorized use of Wildrose membership data and the protection of Wildrose information are serious matters for me."

Jean said the Wildrose doesn't believe any data was released during the laptop heist, "but we cannot be certain."

He said no credit card information was on the missing laptops, which are password-protected.

"I apologize to any of you who may have received unwanted contact from other political parties and, while Wildrose has always safeguarded our data, we will do even more to ensure the integrity of your information," Jean said.

"I apologize to any of you who may have received unwanted contact."

Brian Jean

Wildrose supporters have also received unsolicited calls claiming Jean is encouraging members to buy PC memberships to influence the PC leadership race, Jean added.

Alberta PC Party President Katherine O'Neil told Metro the party is monitoring the situation, but wouldn't elaborate on Wildrose members receiving unsolicited calls from leadership-race contestants.

Leadership contender Jason Kenney's campaign wouldn't comment by press time.

WITH FILES FROM JOSIE LUKEY/FOR METRO

ACCIDENTS

Mobile collision software saving time: Police



Kevin Maimann
Metro | Edmonton

New collision reporting software is saving time and headaches for police and motorists.

Alberta Transportation and the Edmonton Police Service officially rolled out eCruiser on Monday, a program specifically developed for police vehicle computers to facilitate fully electronic collision reporting.

Police spokesperson Clair Seyler said the main drive in creating the software was cutting out paperwork and administrative duties for officers.

"Responding to a collision can take all day, for one collision. So this will be a lot quicker," she said.

EPS became the first city in Western Canada to use mobile collision reporting when it launched the pilot project in June. Calgary police plan to log on by the end of the year.

Previously, officers would have to handwrite every form, meticulously taking down each driver's information. With eCruiser, an auto-fill function takes care of that information as soon as the officer types in a licence plate number.

With less time spent filling out forms, officers are more free to respond to other calls. The process should be less painful for drivers, as they now have quick access to online collision reports.

"Now they can go online and

access as many copies as they like. If they lose their copy they can get another one," Seyler said.

"It should be a lot quicker and more accurate, because it eliminates that room of illegible writing or misunderstanding of handwritten reports."

Terry Wallace, executive director of driver programs for Alberta Transportation, noted the program is also simplifying provincial collision data collection.

"We get the data faster and cleaner," he said.

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Bill aims to get kids out of cars

LEGISLATION

Act encourages walking and biking to school



Kevin Maimann
Metro | Edmonton

Getting kids to walk, bike, skateboard or rollerblade to school is the aim of a private members' bill tabled at the Alberta legislature Monday.

Edmonton-Centre MLA David Shepherd proposed the Active School Week Act, which would mandate that schools hold activities throughout the first week of October each year encouraging kids to use active transportation.

Shepherd, an avid cyclist, said the bill was sparked by personal experience.

"When I take the opportunity to bike to work, or on occasion to walk to work, I always arrive in a better frame of mind — clear-headed, more energy, and I feel more focused and ready to get into the day,"



Edmonton-Centre MLA David Shepherd introduced a bill Monday aimed at getting Alberta students to use more active transportation. METRO FILE

he said.

Shepherd said the bill also addresses climate change by addressing carbon footprints.

He met with the education ministry as well as representatives from schools, the med-

ical community and cycling groups to draw up the bill, which will have to go through several more readings before it becomes legislation.

A report released earlier this month, by ParticipAction,

ranked Canada near the bottom of the barrel in children's activity among a group of 38 countries.

Alberta Medical Association board member Dr. Kim Kelly, who supports the bill, is in-



The walking school bus has really role-modelled the behaviour for our school.

Dr. Kim Kelly

involved in a Walking School Bus program at Belgravia school that sees adults meet a group of elementary students five blocks from the school and walk with them.

"The walking school bus has really role-modelled the behaviour for our school," Kelly said, adding the program has got more students and staff using active transportation overall.

Kelly said 91 per cent of Canadian kids get less than the recommended daily amount of physical activity, which negatively affects their overall health as well as their educational outcomes.

"It's a pretty widespread problem," she said.

"The goal would be to help them build healthy habits that would last for a lifetime."

AUTISM

Silent Santa at mall



Alex Boyd
Metro | Edmonton

For some kids with autism, bells jingling and sleigh bells ringing aren't so much festive as they are overwhelming.

To make the holiday season a bit easier for them, Londonderry Mall is hosting a series of Silent Santa events this year, tailored to kids with sensory issues.

At the first event last weekend, the lights were dimmed, music was off and Santa was given a little bit more time to interact with each child. The event was held before the mall opened to minimize shopping traffic.

"The holiday season can be so stressful for our community, because there's so much going on," said Lauren McGuinness, manager of programs and services with Autism Edmonton.

"It can be tough for anyone, but for someone with extra needs or sensitivities to things it can be too much."

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GROAT ROAD BRIDGES REHABILITATION PROJECT

The City of Edmonton will be rehabilitating three Groat Road Bridges: over the North Saskatchewan River, over Victoria Park Road, and the Mayfair Bridge over Groat Road. This project will also include the reconfiguration of the Groat Road interchange north of the river.

The project is currently in the design stage. Construction is planned for summer 2018.

Groat Road Bridges Rehabilitation Project Information Session

Tuesday, November 29, 2016
4:00 PM to 8:00 PM (drop-in)
Royal Mayfair Golf Club
9450 Groat Road

The plans will also be available on the City website after November 29 (www.edmonton.ca/GroatRoadBridges).

Edmonton



Lucas Sloan is one of the masterminds behind an upcoming pocket-sized, retro gaming console. CONTRIBUTED

An itty bitty throwback

GAMING

Company hopes to launch pocket-sized retro consoles



Ameya Charnalia
For Metro | Edmonton

Gamers with a soft spot for retro games will soon have access to pocket-sized versions of their favourite Nintendo consoles of yesteryear.

The duo that brought you the Harmonicartridge have completed prototypes for their latest retro gaming product line: the Allcade Itty Bitty Collection.

Lucas Sloan, who runs a custom manufacturing business in Edmonton called MadeBySloan, partnered with longtime collaborator Brady Grumpelt to gather a team and assemble what are essentially gaming consoles, built inside old-timey game cartridges.

The cartridges are from the hugely popular Nintendo Entertainment System, Super Nintendo Entertainment System and the Nintendo 64 system. Transformed into pocket-sized consoles, they can then plug into televisions using an HDMI cable.

Users then load digital copies of games they already own onto a flash drive, plug it into the Allcade system, and game away, said Sloan.

"We don't own the rights to Nintendo's games," he said. "We're selling you a product that allows you to have copies of games you already own immediately available in your home theatre system."

Each system, which starts at about \$100, comes with the console, at least one controller and a power cord. The duo hopes to sell the first 100 systems through a Kickstarter campaign, which will allow them to manufacture systems more cost-effectively in the future.

Sloan takes great pride in the fact that they're manufacturing all the systems in Edmonton.

TRIAL

Boy who died from strep lived in squalor

A seven-year-old boy who died from a treatable strep infection three years ago lived in squalor and was treated with dandelion tea and oil of oregano instead of antibiotics, a trial heard Monday.

Tamara Lovett, 47, is charged with failing to provide the necessities of life and with criminal negligence causing the death of her son, Ryan Alexander Lovett, who died in March 2013 after getting a strep infection that kept him bedridden for 10 days.

Prosecutor Jonathan Hak said in his opening arguments in a Calgary courtroom that the family lived off the grid in a dark, dirty apartment. The boy's birth had never been registered.

An autopsy revealed the boy had contracted Group A streptococcus infection and pneumonia. The official cause of death was sepsis which brought on multi-organ failure.

Hak said Ryan's heart was infected, he had meningitis and his immune system was

exhausted. He could fight no more.

"In short, Ryan was dead," Hak said.

He said Lovett would not take the boy to a doctor, even though a friend had recommended it the day before Lovett called 911.

"She did not believe in conventional medicine or doctors," said Hak. "She was, of course, proven wrong when hours later, Ryan died in her apartment."

"All he needed was antibiotics." THE CANADIAN PRESS

+ ILLNESS

A Calgary police officer who interviewed Lovett said she indicated her son had been sick for a couple of weeks with pain in his leg, groin and upper arm.

She said he got up in the middle of the night to use the bathroom and collapsed.

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Changing the campaign

ADVERTISING

Province floats proposal to cut back spending on elections

Alberta is proposing new rules that would limit spending on political campaigns and cap individual contributions at \$4,000 a year.

Opponents say while the goal is to get big money out of politics, the playing field remains tilted until the government reins in its own spending on advertising. Christina Gray, minister in charge of democratic renewal, introduced the changes Monday.

"We are ending the days of backroom deals and pay to play politics," Gray said.

"We're standing up for Albertans who say, 'Enough is enough.' Because Albertans decide elections, not big money and not special interest groups."

The proposed Fair Elections Financing Act would allow individuals to contribute up to \$4,000 a year to politics. The money would be allowed to go



Opponents say the field remains tilted in favour of the ruling government. THE CANADIAN PRESS FILE

to parties, candidates, constituency associations, leadership and nomination contests.

The current maximum is \$15,000 per contributor per year, doubling to \$30,000 in an election year. Gray's bill also calls for a spending limit of \$2 million for parties during an election.

Third-party spending couldn't exceed \$150,000.

There would be no spending limit for leadership contests, but the entry fee for candidates would have to be reasonably related to the cost of running the race.

The rules, if passed, will not affect the current Progressive Conservative leadership contest or the Liberal race that is set to begin in the spring. However,

surplus funds will have to be returned to contributors.

Legislation passed by Premier Rachel Notley's government last year banned corporate and union donations to political parties.

Opposition members agreed it's critical to get big money out of politics, but suggested the government has to level the playing field by putting some kind of

limit on government ads heading into an election.

They said such ads, by trumpeting government achievements, act as election propaganda for a governing party while being paid for by the taxpayer.



I don't see anything that's inherently unfair.

David Swann on the bill

"We have not seen anything on the government party advertisements, something that we have raised for a long time particularly during byelections (where there are no restrictions on government ads)," said Jason Nixon of the Opposition Wildrose party.

Gray said she is deliberating on some kind of restriction, but would not commit to taking action. The changes follow recent deliberations of an all-party committee tasked with developing new rules to improve equity and accountability during elections and fundraising.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

HARASSMENT

Jansen offered support

A former central Alberta politician says she can empathize with the harassment and abuse directed at Calgary MLA Sandra Jansen before and after she left the Tories and joined the NDP.

Kerry Towle says she received more than 1,000 angry letters and 750 phone calls when she left the Wildrose party to join what was then the Progressive Conservative government two years ago. Jansen dropped out of the Tory leadership race and crossed to the NDP after taunts at a policy convention and social media attacks that she said had become unbearable.

Towle, the former MLA for Innisfail-Sylvan Lake, says she was astounded she could provoke so much hatred when she left the Wildrose for the PCs.

"It was a dangerous time," she said. "I left a party. I didn't murder my mother."

"I told (Jansen) that I felt bad that she had to go through that. I said I (had) also felt discouraged, (but) didn't have the strength at the time to release what I went through." THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Off-road helmet law coming to Alberta

TRANSPORTATION

Legislation will apply to snowmobiles, ATVs, dirt bikes

Alberta has introduced legislation that would require people to wear helmets when operating off-highway vehicles on public land, after years of lobbying by safety groups.

The proposed legislation applies to ATVs, snowmobiles, dirt bikes, four-wheel-drive vehicles and other machines used for cross-country travel.

Transportation Minister Brian Mason said Alberta is the only province that does not have some kind of helmet law for off-road vehicles.

"For years, Albertans have been asking us to take action to reduce unnecessary injuries and deaths caused by head injuries on off-highway vehicle



Helmets could no longer be optional when operating an ATV on public land in Alberta. THE CANADIAN PRESS FILE

crashes," Mason said Monday.

"The proposed amendments would help prevent injuries and keep families safe."

The Injury Prevention Centre at the University of Alberta estimates 19 people are killed each year in the province while

operating off-highway vehicles. The centre said 185 people were killed while driving ATVs between 2002 and 2013.

Two out of three people who died were not wearing a helmet and more than half of the deaths were due to rollovers.

Last year, more than 1,000 children under 16 in the province were injured while riding on such machines and each year nearly 6,000 people end up in hospital emergency rooms. The government estimates that injuries from such crashes cost Alberta's health system about \$50 million per year.

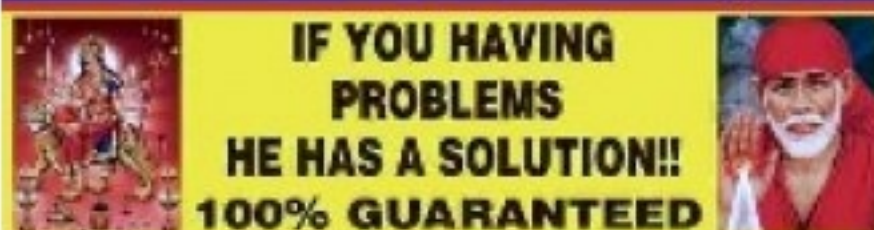
The helmet law would not apply to people who use off-highway vehicles on private land — including for farm and ranch work — or on First Nation and Metis land.

Mason said enforcing the law on private land would be too difficult. But he said the province is consulting with agriculture groups and will work to promote the use of helmets on farms and ranches as it reviews occupational health and safety rules.

Mason said the government hopes to enact the legislation by next May — just before the off-highway riding season usually begins.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Sex-assault poll disturbs brass

MILITARY

Critical survey shows nearly 1,000 reports in just one year

Nearly 1,000 members of Canada's military say they've been sexually assaulted in the past year, according to a landmark survey.

Women in Canada's military remain the target of sexual assaults, unwanted sexual touching, inappropriate sexual innuendo and jokes, according to the newly released survey that reveals top commanders have much work left to improve the culture within the Canadian Armed Forces.

One in 60 regular force members say they've been sexually assaulted in the last year, mostly unwanted sexual touching, but also including attacks and sexual activity without consent.

That works out to about 1.7 per cent of regular forces personnel, higher than the comparable rate of 0.9 per cent for the general population.



General Jonathan Vance addresses the findings of a Statistics Canada Survey on sexual misconduct in the Canadian Armed Forces. SEAN KILPATRICK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

New statistics released Monday show that women are often the target of misconduct and are four times more likely than men to be assaulted.

In an especially disturbing revelation, almost one-third of women in uniform say they've been the victim

of a sexual assault since they enlisted.

The grim stats are part of a landmark survey by Statistics Canada commissioned by the military to uncover the extent of inappropriate conduct in the ranks.

Some 43,000 military members responded to the volun-

tary survey between April and June and the findings will serve as a benchmark in what promises to be a regular survey to keep tabs on the problems.

Gen. Jonathan Vance, the chief of defence staff, said Monday the findings confirm his decision to launch OP

Honour, the military-wide initiative to stamp out misconduct and improve workplace culture, as one of his first acts upon taking command in July, 2015.

But especially troubling for Vance and his top commanders, is that inappropriate behaviour has continued after the launch of that effort.

Vance renewed his pledge that the military will seek out perpetrators. He said that 30 supervisors and higher rank members have been removed from their command because of misconduct and Vance bluntly said they wouldn't be missed if they left the military entirely.

Vance said he was buoyed by the finding that almost 80 per cent regular force members strongly agreed that complaints about inappropriate sexual behaviour would be taken seriously in their current unit.

But he agreed that more work needs to be done to encourage the victims of sexual assault and misbehaviour to report incidents to their superiors or the police.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

By the numbers

49 per cent of women who were sexually assaulted in the last 12 months identified their supervisor or someone of higher ranks as the perpetrator. For men, a peer was commonly the perpetrator. Among regular force members, **27.3 per cent** of women and **3.8 per cent** of men have been victims of sexual assault at least once since joining the Canadian Armed Forces. Unwanted sexual touching was the most common type of assault.

Four in five members of the regular forces saw, heard or were personally targeted by sexualized behaviour in the military. The most common behaviour were sexual jokes and inappropriate sexual comments, but the complaints also included indecent exposure.

Close to **one in five** regular force members were personally targeted by sexualized or discriminatory behaviour in the past 12 months. **Women were twice as likely** as men to being the target of such behaviour.

BROADCASTING

CBC asking feds for \$400M to go ad-free

The CBC is asking for an increase of roughly \$400 million in government funding to go ad-free on all platforms.

A proposal posted to the national broadcaster's website outlines how the CBC/Radio-Canada wants to follow the example of the BBC, Britain's national broad-

caster, and be fully funded by the federal government instead of partially relying on ad revenue.

The CBC "has always been funded at a per person level that is significantly lower than ... almost all other comparable public broadcasters," the paper notes, pointing out that the BBC

receives \$114 per citizen while the CBC only gets \$34.

The paper proposes a \$12 increase to bring the amount it receives from each Canadian to \$46, a price it says is "still well below comparable countries."

"The BBC offers a compelling example of how a strong, stable,

well-funded public broadcaster can serve the interests of domestic audiences and diverse communities, support the global ambitions of its creative and cultural sectors, and provide a strong foundation for Britain's creative economy," the proposal says.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

ELECTIONS

We're ho-hum on reform



Wanyee Li
Metro | Vancouver

Canadians are open to the idea of electoral reform, but in no rush to see actual change in the way they cast their votes, according to a new Angus Reid

Institute poll.

About 72 per cent of respondents said they believe an electoral system that better reflects popular support would increase voter turnout, but only 37 per cent said they are in support of actually changing the system.

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Justin Trudeau speaks at a news conference in Antananarivo, Madagascar, on Sunday.

ADRIAN WYLD/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Trudeau to skip Castro memorial

POLITICS

PM has taken heat for praise of late Cuban dictator

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's office says he won't be attending any memorial or funeral services for the late Cuban leader Fidel Castro, saying his schedule wouldn't allow him to attend.

Instead, Trudeau has dispatched Governor-General David Johnston to attend a memorial service scheduled to take place Tuesday in Havana. The PMO would not say if any other representatives would attend memorial services or Castro's funeral.

Trudeau's decision follows harsh criticism at home and abroad for a laudatory statement issued on the weekend that praised the dictator's legacy.

Trudeau's statement expressed "deep sorrow" about the death of Castro, 90, without mentioning the human rights violations of his regime beyond referring vaguely to him as "a controversial figure." Trudeau also described Castro as a "legendary revolutionary and orator" who made significant improvements to the educa-

tion and health-care systems of Cuba.

Trudeau defended his statement by saying he was trying to highlight the connections between Canada and Cuba.

The Opposition Conservatives took Trudeau to task Monday in the House of Commons, urging him to amend his written statement after agreeing in a news conference Sunday that Castro was a dictator.

The Tories demanded Trudeau apologize for trying to whitewash Castro's past.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



The prime minister, instead of paying tribute to a dictator, should have offered condolences to the long-suffering oppressed people of Cuba. Peter Kent

MILITARY

Senate warns against risks of African peacekeeping efforts

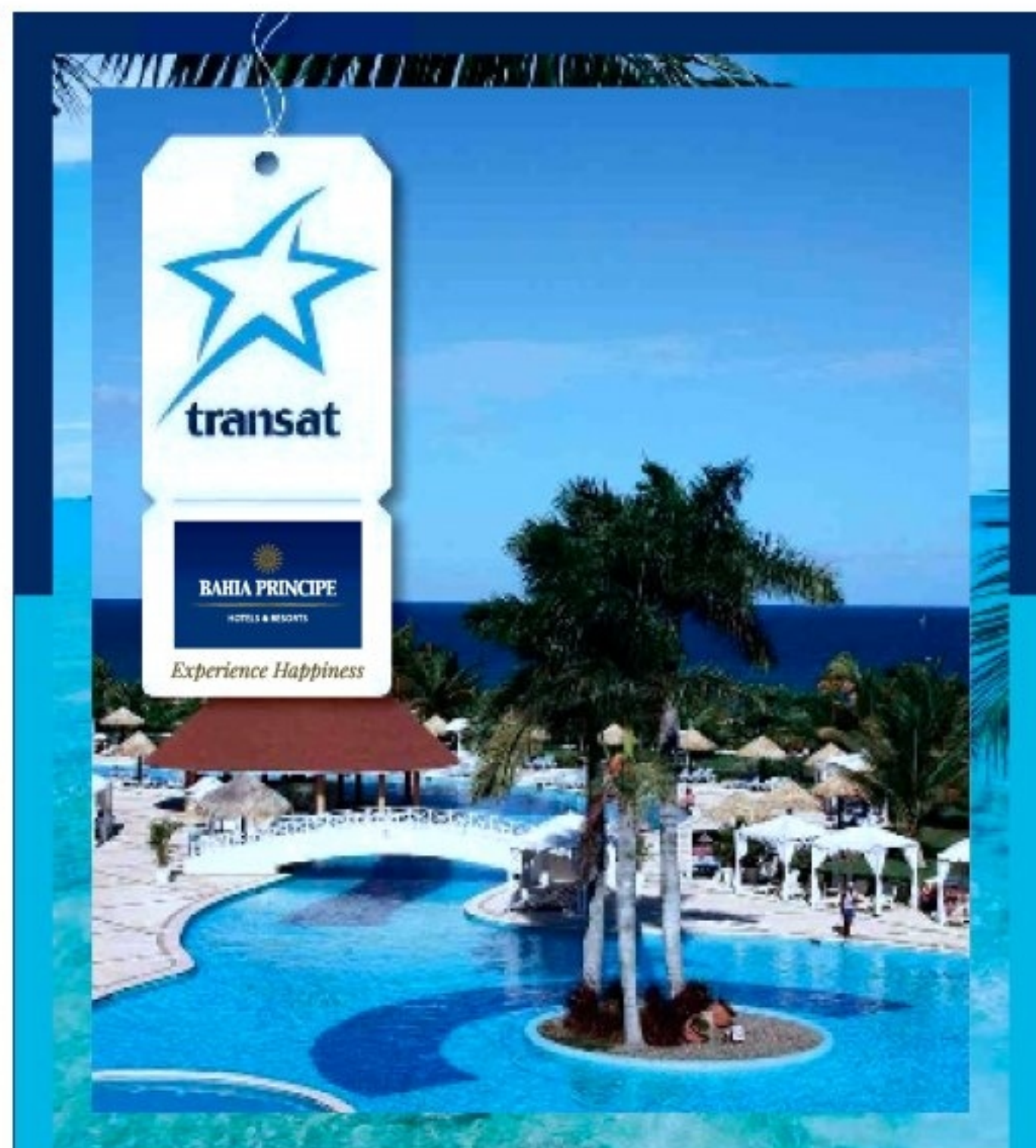
A new report is raising serious questions about the risks of deploying Canadian military and police officers to a UN peace operation in Africa, recommending Parliament should have a say on whether it proceeds.

The report issued Monday by the Senate standing com-

mittee on national security and defence says the government should seek approval in the Commons and the Senate for a deployment of Canadian military, police and civilian personnel, and only after the government reveals the anticipated cost, the rules of engagement for how Canadian

soldiers will defend themselves, the impact on current military operations, a timetable for when an African mission would end, and a clear plan for how soldiers would be counseled after returning from what the report says is certain to be a dangerous mission.

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An American Airlines plane flying U.S. and Cuba national flags arrives at Jose Marti International Airport becoming the first Miami-Havana commercial flight in 50 years. YAMIL LAGE/YAMIL LAGE/AFP/GETTY

Commercial flights in Cuba after 50 years

Passengers erupted into applause as the first commercial flight from the U.S. to Havana in more than 50 years landed in Cuba, ar-

riving as the island begins week-long memorial services for revolutionary leader Fidel Castro.

Cubans saluted the packed American Airlines flight by spraying water from firetrucks above the plane as it taxied along the runway at Jose Marti International Airport in honour of the inaugural voyage.

"It was very emotional for me," said Jonathan Gonzalez, 31, a Cuban-American born in Miami who said it was his third time visiting the island.

Gonzalez said he felt he was arriving at what will be a "difficult time" for the island but remained optimistic for the country's future. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

+ OFF THE AIR

Delta bans belligerent Trumpkin for life

Delta Air Lines is banning for life a passenger who rudely professed his support for Donald Trump and insulted those who didn't on a flight to Pennsylvania.



Officer hailed for speedy takedown

OHIO STATE

Assailant killed a minute after attack began with car, knife

Officials on Monday praised an Ohio State University police officer who shot and killed a man a minute after the assailant drove his car into a crowd and stabbed multiple people.

Officer Alan Horujko, who started on the university police force in January 2015, was responding to reports of a nearby gas leak when the car jumped a curb on campus at 9:52 a.m.

Horujko ordered the attacker, Abdul Razak Ali Artan, to drop the knife and then shot him when he didn't obey the command, university president Michael Drake said.

"The officer encountered the individual by 9:53; the subject was neutralized by 9:53," Drake



Nicholas Flores grieves during an attack at Ohio State on Monday in Columbus. ADAM CAIRNS/COLUMBUS DISPATCH/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

said, underscoring how quickly events unfolded.

Horujko is owed a debt of gratitude, said Monica Moll, director of Ohio State's Department of Public Safety.

"He did a fabulous job today," she said.

University police Chief Craig Stone said it was fortunate the officer had gone to investigate the leak, which positioned him to respond to the attack so quickly.

Eleven people were hurt in the attack. Police said they were investigating whether it was ter-



Alan Horujko
OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY
POLICE VIA THE AP

rorism.

Artan was born in Somalia and was a legal permanent U.S. resident, according to a U.S. official who wasn't authorized

to discuss the case and spoke on the condition of anonymity.

Mayor Andrew Ginther called Horujko an "outstanding young law-enforcement officer."

"There has never been a more dangerous or complicated and challenging time to be a police officer, and we had a dynamic well-trained professional today save the lives of many of our residents and students," said Ginther.

Horujko, 28, was placed on administrative leave Monday. Horujko appears to be an avid runner, with several half-marathons under his belt, according to online results. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



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Brexit and the U.S. election helped drive up online searches for the word "xenophobia." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS/GETTY IMAGES

Word of the year is a sign of the times

DICTIONARY.COM

World events cause spike in searches for 'xenophobia'

You might have thought about it, heard it. A lot. You might have even felt it: Dictionary.com's word of the year is "xenophobia."

While it's difficult to get at exactly why people look up words in dictionaries, online or on paper, it's clear that in contentious 2016, fear of "otherness" bruised the collective consciousness around the globe.

The Brexit vote, police violence against people of colour, Syria's refugee crisis, transsexual rights and the U.S. presidential race were among prominent developments that drove debate — and spikes in lookups of the word, said Jane Solomon, one of the dictionary site's lexi-

cographers.

The 21-year-old site defines xenophobia as "fear or hatred of foreigners, people from different cultures, or strangers." And it plans to expand its entry to include fear or dislike of "customs, dress and cultures of people with backgrounds different from our own," Solomon said in a recent interview.

The word didn't enter the English language until the late 1800s, she said. Its roots are in two Greek words — "xenos," meaning "stranger or guest," and "phobos," meaning "fear or panic," Solomon added.

The interest was clear June 24, within a period that represents the largest spike in lookups of xenophobia so far this year. That was the day of Brexit, when the UK voted to leave the European Union.

Searches for xenophobia on

the site increased by 938 per cent from June 22 to June 24, Solomon said. Lookups spiked again that month after President Obama's June 29 speech in which he insisted that Donald Trump's campaign rhetoric was not a measure of "populism," but rather "nativism, or xenophobia, or worse."



I don't think most people even know what xenophobia is.

Robert Reich

the site increased by 938 per cent from June 22 to June 24, Solomon said. Lookups spiked again that month after President Obama's June 29 speech in which he insisted that Donald Trump's campaign rhetoric was not a measure of "populism," but rather "nativism, or xenophobia, or worse."

Robert Reich, who served in the administrations of Presidents Gerald Ford and Jimmy Carter and was President Clinton's labour secretary, felt so strongly about xenophobia's prominence today that he ap-

pears in a video for Dictionary.com discussing its ramifications.

"I don't think most people even know what xenophobia is," Reich, who teaches public policy at the University of California, Berkeley, said in an interview. "It's a word not to be celebrated but to be deeply concerned about."

Solomon's site, based in Oakland, California, started choosing a word of the year in 2010, based on search data and agreement of in-house experts that include a broad swath of the company, from lexicographers to the marketing and product teams to the CEO, Liz McMillan.

The word and the sentiment reflect a broader mournful tone to 2016, with Oxford dictionary editors choosing "post-truth" as their word of the year, often described in terms of politics as belonging to a time in which truth has become irrelevant.

"I wish," Solomon said, "we could have chosen a word like unicorns." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



MORE PHOTOS ON THE METRO APP

JAPAN SOMETHING FISHY An amusement park in Japan sparked an uproar after it displayed about 5,000 dead fish in the ice at a skating rink, forcing the park to close the attraction. About 25 different kinds of fish could be seen under the 250-metre-long ice circuit. The park in of Kitakyushu opened the "Ice Aquarium" as an "attraction never heard about." FACEBOOK/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

U.S. ELECTION

Green Stein sitting back recounting her money

Jill Stein is on track to raise twice as much for an election recount than she did for her own failed Green Party presidential bid.

Fuelled by the hashtag #recount2016 and millions of dispirited Hillary Clinton voters, Stein's recount drive had already netted \$6.3 million by Monday, according to her campaign website. That's close to the \$7 million she posted as a goal and millions more than the roughly \$3.5 million she raised during her entire presidential bid.

Citing, without evidence, concerns about "cyber hacking," Stein wants a recount in Wisconsin, Michigan and Pennsylvania — places that Clinton, a Democrat, thought were safely in her column. Instead, Republican Donald Trump won all three and with them the electoral votes



Jill Stein. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

needed to win the White House.

Stein won no states and wouldn't directly or immediately benefit from a recount — nor would she likely be able to topple Trump. Even Clinton's attorney Marc Elias wrote there's "no actionable evidence of hacking or outside attempts to alter the voting technology."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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PAUL WELLS ON WHAT CASTRO LEFT BEHIND

Canadians not named Trudeau will probably continue to watch Cuba as we have for decades, unsure or divided in our response.



I want to talk about the rest of Canada's weird, hesitant relationship with Cuba. But first, since I'm just getting to it now, a few words about Justin Trudeau and Fidel Castro.

We haven't seen Justin Trudeau mourn like this since his dad died. In expressing his "deep sorrow" at the death of Castro, a "larger than life" figure whom Trudeau lauded as "a legendary orator."

Sorry, let's just pause right there. Legendary orator? On Sept. 26, 1960, Castro addressed the United Nations General Assembly for four and a half hours, a record unchallenged to this day in the most boring room on Earth. In 1998 in Havana he spoke for seven and a half hours. Calling Castro a great orator is like calling porn legend Ron Jeremy a romantic: It confuses volume with quality.

Onward. Trudeau lauded Castro's "tremendous dedication and love for the Cuban people," whose speech and dietary protein Castro rationed, by law, for decades. I guess it was tough love.

To be sure, Trudeau balanced his praise with criticism. "During Castro's rule, thousands of Cubans were incarcerated in abysmal prisons, thousands more were harassed and intimidated, and entire generations were denied basic political freedoms," the prime minister wrote. Just kidding! No, that last quote isn't from Justin Trudeau at all. It's from Human Rights Watch. As for the PM, in a communiqué overflowing with praise for Castro, he could find room for only one word about the

Probably most Canadians have long known that Cubans don't have the government we would want for them.

Cuban dictator's human-rights record: "controversial."

Nor can the PM's defenders long sustain the notion that his statement must have been penned by some careless lackey in the PMO. No, the communiqué is too solidly in line with the entire Trudeau family's record on the man to be anything but an honest reflection of Justin Trudeau's thought.

Castro was a pallbearer at

But the rest of us — we cold and bashful Canadians — will probably continue to watch Cuba as we have for decades, unsure or divided in our response to events in the land Fidel Castro leaves behind.

Exhibit A in the theatre of ambivalence is Justin Trudeau's predecessor. Stephen Harper met Raul Castro, Fidel's brother and still the president of Cuba, only 19 months ago, attending what would be



SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP Former prime minister Pierre Trudeau looks on as Cuban President Fidel Castro gestures during a visit to a Havana in 1976 THE CANADIAN PRESS FILE

Pierre Trudeau's funeral. The PM's brother Alexandre Trudeau wrote in the *Toronto Star* a decade ago that Castro was "something of a superman," whose "intellect is one of the most broad and complete that can be found." Alexandre Trudeau wrote that he "grew up knowing that Fidel Castro had a special place among my family's friends," even if ordinary Cubans "do occasionally complain, often as an adolescent might complain about a too strict and demanding father."

One notes family similarities in prose style.

So a prime minister who claims to prize evidence-based policy was caught putting family connections ahead of the exhaustively documented abuses of a man whose death marks a crucial step in his own people's long-delayed march toward freedom.

Harper's last Summit of the Americas in Panama City. The two men sat smiling awkwardly at each other in hard-backed chairs around a little table.

But reporters covering the summit had to find the photo on the website of Granma, the official Cuban Communist newspaper. Canadian reporters weren't told of the meeting by Harper's staff until they found proof of it on the Castro family's propaganda website.

At his summit-closing news conference, Harper said that for Canada and Cuba, "we're at a point where engagement is more likely to lead us to where we want to go than continued isolation." He said he and Raul Castro had discussed the two nations' "important and long-standing relationship. It's a political relationship, a tourist relationship and commercial relationship to some degree — one that we want to

expand."

True, Harper managed to resist marvelling at Castro's charm, oratorical skill, grasp of physics or deep-diving skills, further evidence, if any were needed, that he's no Trudeau.

But Harper's meeting with Cuba's president — only three years after he had blocked Cuban participation at the previous Summit of the Americas — was of a piece with his decision to let Canada be the venue for crucial secret meetings between the Castro regime and the Obama administration.

In both cases, Harper was more eager to get along with the Cubans than to be seen getting along with them.

Why advertise the thaw? A million Canadians a year visit Cuba to enjoy gorgeous beaches and groaning buffets at all-inclusive resorts from which most Cubans remain banned. One winter more than a decade ago, I was one of them. But millions more refuse, even today, to make the trip, believing each dollar they spent would help prop up a corrupt regime.

Probably most Canadians not named Trudeau have long known that Cubans did not have the government Canadians would want for them — and, indeed, not the government Cubans would choose, were they granted the freedom to change their minds about the revolution. But that knowledge doesn't tell us which mix of engagement and isolation is wisest.

Having blown some political capital by saying what he thinks, Trudeau is now going to skip Fidel's funeral. It's a retreat to ambivalence dictated by a public outcry that must have astonished the prime minister, who grew up with a photo of Fidel Castro in his family's home and thought, perhaps, that everybody did.

Paul Wells is a national affairs columnist for the *Toronto Star*.

Freezeway flap isn't isolated — let's fix that

URBAN PARADIS

Danielle Paradis



Mayor Don Iveson has called for a discussion about how the city engages with its volunteer citizens offering ideas.

The reason is the Freezeway, but there are many others.

Still, let's begin there.

Matt Gibbs, Freezeway inventor, is upset that the city has shut him out. He envisioned an 11-kilometre multi-use trail; that turned into a 400-metre skating rink in Victoria Park last year.

But this year, in his version of events, he says the city dropped him completely.

"It was not even, 'Thank you for your effort.' It was, 'Thank you, please leave,'" Gibbs told Metro.

Gibbs' feelings aren't isolated. Take Edmonton's cycling community.

In a freedom of information request Metro submitted about the suicide barriers along the High Level Bridge, the paper found troubling attitudes about cyclists. Metro inquired if administration discussed cyclists' usage of the bridge.

The answer: not really.

Back in summer 2016, Metro obtained a "confidential" memo between city communications staff that saw unnamed officials explain the cycling community wasn't consulted because "the project team did not want to draw attention to the High Level Bridge as a suicide hot spot."

Chris Chan, head of the Edmonton Bicycle Commuters Society, says he works to maintain a positive relationship with the city, but finds the comments here show a lack of trust.

"That really frustrated me, a lot," he says. "We've been in plenty of stakeholder meetings with the city where they asked us not to share information with the public and we did not share information with the public."

There are other examples related to the bridge, too.

As the city prepared to speak to media about the new barriers, cyclist concerns with them were exploding.

In June, one cyclist, Tim Bulger, emailed the city about a press conference at the bridge, asking if it could be moved so cyclists could attend and ask questions.

The response was not shared with Bulger, but did show up in Metro's freedom of information package.

"We're not in the habit of arranging our media events for spectators to attend, so I find it interesting that they would request this and think we'd cave to their demands," wrote Dale Shekoooley, a city spokesperson, in a June 15 email.

Metro shared that with Bulger.

"It is especially concerning that there would be bristling at the public participating in an event — on public property hosted by public servants," he said.

But still, not all is bad.

Julie Kusiek, who helped found QA crossroads, which seeks to make the area of 106 Street and 76 Avenue more pedestrian and bike-friendly, says the city did great work with her group and that citizens have to engage to make Edmonton a better city.

One can only hope there are more positive feelings from Edmonton's citizen groups.

The city's lucky to have them.

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INTERIOR DESIGN

Create a serene mood in your home to get away from it all

Megan Haynes
For Torstar News Service

There's no such thing as too many candles, says Arne Nordtorp, a Denmark-born Toronto resident, and Danish design aficionado. Soft lighting is key to any happy home. So are cosy blankets and beautiful furniture.

"A lot of people think Danish design is stark and cold, but when you get to the DNA, it's really warm and colourful," says Nordtorp, who owns the Danish furniture and design store Torp.

"The space itself needs to be beautiful because when you're in a beautiful space it really makes you feel more comfortable."

It's a philosophy called hygge, and Danes live by it.

The goal is to create an atmosphere that encourages people to "spend time together doing almost nothing at all," Nordtorp says.

Hygge (pronounced HUE-geh or HOO-geh, depending on whom you ask) is all about creating a cosy and comfortable environment, says University of B.C. Danish culture and language lecturer Jens Monrad. And the ideology is currently sweeping the globe, he says.

Five books on the topic have recently been released, while



Cosy like the Danes

• Hygge (HUE-geh or HOO-geh) is all about creating a cosy and comfortable environment

news organizations around the world, particularly in the U.K., have devoted plenty of ink to explaining the philosophy.

While the trend is just starting to bubble to the surface

in Canada, the current state of social and political affairs might lead to a surge in popularity here, too.

The old Norse term originally meant "to think of caring for someone or something," Monrad says.

In the mid-1800s — when Denmark was replete with political and civil unrest — the word resurfaced in literature, usually around themes of families coming together to create a comforting environment.

Nikolaj Grundtvig, founder of the Danish People's Church, later equated the concept of creating a cosy and quiet comforting home environment to a churchlike experience, and the philosophy really took off.

"He made the gates of paradise sound like something out of Ikea's Christmas catalogue," says Monrad.

Anytime there was civic unrest, such as during the Nazi occupation in the Second World War, hygge resurfaced until it just became part of everyday life in Denmark, he says.

"It is why in a modern context, (hygge) has connotations of something overly escapist, perhaps a little bit self-satisfied."

Today, it's part of what makes Denmark, Denmark — one of the happiest countries on the planet, according to the World Happiness Report.

With the continued economic slump, global safety concerns, Brexit, Trump — there's never been a better time to create that welcoming and comfortable home environment to escape the stresses of modern life, Monrad says.

But, he adds, hygge is more than just escaping the harsh realities of the world in a candlelit, blanket-covered room.

To live a truly hyggeligt life, it's about fostering a closeness and comfort with friends and family.

Toronto's Steve Miller, an ad agency executive whose mother is Danish, grew up with hygge — candles and blankets everywhere, and plenty

of sweets in the home.

Now at 41, he continues his mom's traditions, and there's nothing more hygge than the holidays, he says.

Friends and family come over to eat open-faced sandwiches and pastries around a candlelit table, and they sit around for hours discussing everything and nothing at all.

"Friends, family and laughter — that's hygge."



+ CUDDLE UP

Canadian winters are cold and long. Here are three ways to add a little hygge.

Accessories

Candles are crucial for creating hygge at home, Monrad says. Even though Ikea is Swedish, he says, it's a great place to get inexpensive candles, such as the patterned Kornig (\$9.99 for a set of three). To really drive home the feeling of warmth, toss some throws, (Ikea's Odort faux-fur blanket, \$59.99), onto every



surface possible.

Furniture

When decorating your home, look for comfortable furniture, such as the Flag Halyard Chair (\$11,201) from designers Hans Wegner and Kasper Holst Pedersen. And since the dinner table is such an important part of the hygge experience, Nordtorp says a beautiful table, such as the Crosslegged Table (Wegner and Holst Pedersen, \$5,092), will encourage guests to linger.

Foods

Bowls of sweets are common in Danish households as are rich, flaky pastries. Pick up Hoj Snegl (cinnamon roll buns), Smakager (cookies) or Smorrebrod (savory, buttery open-faced sandwiches common at group gatherings) to complete your table.



The Flag Halyard Chair, designed by Hans Wegner and Kasper Holst Pedersen. CONTRIBUTED

TECHNOLOGY

Turning the science of theme park rides into an art form

Every day, thousands of thrill seekers around the globe strap themselves into amusement park rides and are taken on a multimedia adventure, whether coming face to face with a fire-breathing dragon, flying on a wizard's broomstick or perhaps soaring over the wonders of the world.

The technology that makes many these experiences possible can be traced back to a company headquartered in suburban Vancouver, little known outside the industry, that is quickly making a name for itself as a premier builder of some of the most popular and sophisticated rides on the planet.

Since 2011, Dynamic has leveraged its longtime expertise in steel fabrication and the precision-engineering of high-end telescopes to work alongside Disney, Universal Studios and other theme park owners to create everything from the Harry Potter rides to the popular flying theatres.

Kelven Tan, vice-president of business development in Asia, said what sets Dynamic Attractions apart is not only the technology but its expertise in immersive, media-based attractions, along with the focus it places on storytelling.

"The rides are only the means to an end," Tan said, speaking at the company's base in Port Coquitlam.

"Whether it's a tilt and drop, whether it's a spin cycle or a gyro table, it's just to create the effect," he added. "It has turned the science of rides into an art."

Dynamic's facilities are a hive of activity. The grounds include steel fabrication shops and several custom-built hangers, one of which houses a section of roller-coaster track that pivots up and down atop a five-storey triangular structure. It's called a tilt-and-drop and resembles a futuristic version of a medieval catapult.

Dynamic was established in



Guy Nelson, President of Dynamic Attractions, surveys a theme park in Port Coquitlam, B.C. THE CANADIAN PRESS/DARRYL DYCK

Vancouver in 1926, but by the late 20th century it had carved out a niche in high-precision engineering for products such as telescopes.

In the late 20th century, the company got a foothold in the amusement park market when a former collaborator who had gone on to work for Disney reached out for help troubleshooting one of its attractions.

Fast forward to today and the company has more than 50 rides operating around the world and many more in the works.

Dynamic is in the process of creating media-based attractions for the inaugural 20th Century Fox World in Malaysia, for Ferrari World in the United Arab Emirates and for an outer space-themed amusement park in Hangzhou, China.

Guy Nelson, Dynamic's president and CEO, bought the

company in 2007 and oversaw its transition to designing theme park attractions. The company's background with telescopes made the switch a logical one, he said.

"We have a skill set that's second to none in the area of moving large pieces of steel safely and to precision tolerances, like you would expect of a telescope on top of a mountain," Nelson said.

Nelson described one of his favourite rides as Soaring Over the Horizon at Shanghai Disneyland, which takes visitors on a scenic flight around the globe.

"People are coming off of that flying theatre ... screaming with delight, eight-to 80-year-olds, with memories that they'll have forever," he said.

"What we want to accomplish is absolutely the same thing, only more of it." THE CANADIAN PRESS

“People are coming off of that flying theatre ... screaming with delight, eight-to 80-year-olds, with memories that they'll have forever.” Guy Nelson, president and CEO

Time, practice the key to Pyramid pose

YOGA

Treat your body like a temple with this tricky position

YuMee Chung
Torstar News Service

The practice of yoga is based on the geometry of the human body and the natural world we inhabit. Our dramatic version of the classic Pyramid Pose was inspired by the asymmetrical crystalline structure that soars above the prayer hall at Toronto's Ismaili Centre.

This pose requires lots of practice, so please be patient with yourself and consider each step along the way a celebration of your own sacred architecture.

1. From a standing position in the centre of your sticky mat, step your right foot forward, as if you are minding a large gap, and turn the left toes out 45 degrees. The feet should be separated left-to-right like they are standing on train tracks rather than on a tightrope.

2. First, inhale both arms skyward and then exhale as you reach your arms and torso toward the horizon, before framing the front foot with your hands. You may use yoga blocks to help you reach the ground if necessary.

3. Lift and lengthen the spine as you inhale then, maintaining the length from pubic bone to chin, exhale your torso over the front leg.

4. Turn all ten fingers to face the back of your mat and walk the finger pads towards the foot behind you until your



Inspired by the crystalline structure above Toronto's Ismaili Centre, this pose requires dedication — don't be afraid to take your time. ANNE-MARIE JACKSON/TORONTO STAR

arms straighten and your hands resemble little pyramids. Feel free to bring your blocks along for the ride. Stay here for five breaths.

5. However, if your flexibility and spirit of adventure allow for it, try pivoting the back heel off the mat, rooting your fingers into the ground and lifting the back foot towards your seat by bending only at the knee. Do your best to keep the hips from shifting forward as you remove the support of your back leg.

6. Defy gravity in this daring, cantilevered shape for up to five breaths, before reversing the pose and repeating on the second side.

YuMee Chung is a recovering lawyer who teaches yoga in Toronto. She is on the faculty of several yoga teacher training programs and leads international yoga retreats. Learn more about her at padmani.com.

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VASECTOMIES

Permanent birth control access unequal among genders

Sofi Papamarko
For Torstar News Service

Andy Prosserman will never be a father — and he couldn't be more delighted.

The 31-year-old Torontonian commemorated his recent vasectomy with a celebratory photo shoot. In one photo, he tenderly cradles a head of kale like a green, leafy infant. In others, he clutches a bottle of scotch, a Nintendo controller, and his Canadian passport — all things he'll have time to enjoy in the absence of parental responsibilities.

"I've known I didn't want to be a father as far back as I can remember," says Prosserman. "I'd thought about getting a vasectomy when I was in my early 20s. I chose not to do it at that point because I knew things could change and that it would've been irresponsible to do it that young, but I've always assumed I'd do it at some point. And here we are."

Unlike Prosserman, Cam Nursall came to this realization gradually.

"I have zero paternal instinct," says the 25-year-old, currently in consultation for a vasectomy.

"I want to travel, I want to open a small brewery, I want to ride across the continent on my motorcycle, and kids just don't fit into that."

The choice about whether or

not to have children is among the most important we make. If parenthood is ultimately not for us, there are myriad options available to us, including permanent sterilization.

But young people's choices about their own bodies and futures aren't always taken seriously — especially the choices of young women.

Samantha Bleiziffer, 27, is certain she does not want to be a mother and would get a tubal ligation if she could.

"I can't even seem to find a doctor who will sit down and discuss the options with me, like an adult with autonomy over what happens to her body," says Bleiziffer.

"I first tried talking to my family doctor about it when I was 25, because I wanted information on the process and the risks. I was very quickly denied the conversation. My next attempt was at 26, where the doctor at a private women's health clinic denied me the same information and conversation."

Compare this with Prosserman's experience — his vasectomy took place two months after putting in an initial request with his GP.

Tubal ligations are irreversible and more invasive than vasectomies, but this informal double standard is frustrating for young Canadian women certain of their decision.

The current summary guidelines from the Society of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists of Canada (SOGC) state: "Before providing permanent contraception, women should be counselled on the risks of the procedure, the risk of regret, and alternative contraceptive methods, including long-acting reversible contraceptives and male vasectomy. Informed con-



Andy Prosserman, 31, commemorates his recent vasectomy with a celebratory photo shoot. PHOTOS BY ANGELINA COCCIMIGLIO/WWW.BLOG.ACOCCI.COM



sent must be obtained."

Despite this, several women I've spoken to were stonewalled by health-care providers when requesting information on tubal ligations.

Physicians seem especially reluctant to offer it to women in their 20s, like Bleiziffer.

According to Christine Butt, communications and public education representative for the SOGC, there is a technical update for permanent birth con-

trol underway, but it is not yet finalized or ready to be made public.

Having children remains the default setting and status quo. Young people who are open or vocal about not wanting them sometimes face criticism and even anger from family, peers and strangers.

One of the more common criticisms they face is that choosing not to have children makes them selfish.

"Having children can be beautiful, but that doesn't mean it's for everybody," says Prosserman. "The only thing that's selfish is forcing your own ideals onto others."

"I don't think it's selfish to know what I want from my life,

and if not being a mother is a part of that plan, it truly doesn't concern anybody but me and my partner," Bleiziffer says.

"I don't critique anybody's choice to procreate and have kids. All I want is the same respect for my choice."

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GOSSIP

Ed Sheeran gets knife wound in royal farce

Social media is heaping scorn on Princess Beatrice after she reportedly slashed singer Ed Sheeran in the face with a ceremonial sword as she pretended to knight James Blunt.

The accidental face-filleting took place at a party at the Royal Lodge in Windsor, England earlier in November.

The Telegraph reports that the trouble started after singer-songwriter Blunt joked he'd like to become "Sir James."

The Princess, 28, fetched a ceremonial sword and swung it backwards playfully to pretend-

knight Blunt.

Unfortunately, the sword was not Blunt — and caught Sheeran in the face.

"The blade cut into his face and it was just a few inches from his right eye," one source told The Sun. "A couple of the guests said it could have been worse and he could have been blinded in the eye, but Ed really played it down. Everyone was totally shocked and apparently Beatrice was very upset. But Ed was the perfect gentleman and told her it was just an accident."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE



Princess Beatrice accidentally slashed Ed Sheeran's face, seen above with friend Andy Patterson. @ANDYPATTMUSIC/TWITTER

Will backs Harry's request for privacy

PUBLICITY

Royal brothers form united front against media firestorm

Prince William has supported his brother Prince Harry who has called for restraint in coverage of his private life.

A Kensington Palace press spokesman said Monday that William "absolutely understands the situation concerning privacy and upholds the need for Prince Harry to support those closest to him."

The comments were made in response to press questions after a newspaper suggested that William disagreed with Harry's decision to publicly complain about coverage of his relationship with new girlfriend Meghan Markle.

The spokesman says William supports Harry's desire to support "those closest to him."

Harry took the unusual step earlier this month of confirming his relationship with Markle, an American actress, and saying he was concerned for her safety because of press harassment.

"It is not right that a few months into a relationship with him that Ms. Markle should be subjected to such a storm," the statement from Kensington Palace read.

"He knows commentators will say this is 'the price she has to pay' and that 'this is all part of the game.' He strongly disagrees. This is not a game—it is her life and his."

She recently visited Harry in London. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Prince William, and his younger sibling Prince Harry. GETTY IMAGES



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JOHANNA SCHNELLER **WHAT I'M WATCHING**

Anatomy of a trial by media

THE SHOW: Amanda Knox
THE MOMENT: The real guilty parties

Giuliano Mignini, the head cop in the 2007 murder case of British student Meredith Kercher in Perugia, Italy, tells the camera why he was convinced that Kercher's roommate, American student Amanda Knox, was the killer.

"Let's imagine what Meredith found when she came home," he says, just making stuff up.

"She sees Amanda with Raffaele Sollecito and Rudy Guede," about to have sex. "She couldn't take it anymore. She must have scolded Amanda for her lack of morals. Amanda must have felt irritated, humiliated."

How he knows what either woman "must have felt," he never explains.

Then one of the lead reporters on the story, Daily Mail freelancer Nick Pisa — who printed whatever Mignini fed him — chirps, "I don't think I ever had so many front



"I don't think I ever had so many front pages," says Daily Mail freelancer Nick Pisa in Netflix documentary Amanda Knox. CONTRIBUTED

pages," while copies of his headlines appear onscreen: "Man-Eater," "Femme Fatale." Eventually Knox was acquitted and Kercher's murderer was found.

But the two jackasses above are guilty as sin for their campaign of lies and innuendo.

Their crap kept Knox on trial for eight years, until the case arrived before the su-

preme court of Italy, which overturned her conviction based on the "stunning flaws" in Mignini's investigation.

As we've seen in the recent U.S. election, people will believe even the most ludicrous misinformation if you repeat it often and loudly enough.

Watching this doc, you can't help but shiver: Take one crooked cop, introduce

him to one shameless reporter, whip up some nasty public opinion and you can destroy the life of literally anyone.

Amanda Knox is streaming on Netflix.

Johanna Schneller is a media connoisseur who zeroes in on pop-culture moments. She appears Monday through Thursday.

Waiting on Woods' return

GOLF

Peers curious to see how Tiger will make out this week

Tiger Woods has gone through two back surgeries since he last played a golf tournament 15 months ago. He had another back surgery that knocked him out of the Masters for the first time in 2014. He had four knee surgeries before that.

None of that matters to Ernie Els when Woods returns to competition this week. Els is more curious about what's going on in his head.

"The talent's there. It's been proven. It doesn't go away," Els said. "It's what you think of yourself. We look at this great player, but he's not seeing the same stuff in his own mind. A lot of us are like that. When you've achieved as much as he has it's a shock to the system not to play as good as you have been."

Els, perhaps more than any other player, has a deep golfing connection with Woods.

He was the player Woods sought out 20 years ago at Royal Lytham & St. Annes when deciding whether to turn pro. They had so many meaningful



Tiger Woods has won 79 times on the PGA Tour, including 14 majors. STREETER LECKA/GETTY IMAGES

battles, and Woods almost always got the better of him. Els was runner-up to Woods seven times, the most of any player.

Els designed the Albany golf course where Woods comes back from the longest layoff of his career on Thursday. He plans to be in the Bahamas, and he is as eager as anyone else to see how a guy who won 79

times on the PGA Tour stacks up against a generation that grew up in awe of how Woods played golf.

The Hero World Challenge is a holiday tournament with an 18-man field and no cut. Even so, it commands as much attention as any tournament this year. Woods has been a star attraction his entire ca-

reer, and the appetite is even stronger after an absence that dates to Aug. 23, 2015.

"I can't wait to watch, either, just to see him play," Ryder Cup captain Davis Love III said. "The last time I saw him play, I won. It's hard to believe it's been that long."

Woods already has had one false start. He signed up to play

The physical side is not an issue. It's the other side that's an issue, whatever is blocking him.

Ernie Els on Tiger Woods

2013

Woods' last victory came in August 2013. He won five times that year and was PGA Tour player of the year.

the Safeway Open, only to pull out three days later because he said he felt "vulnerable." That followed a week as assistant captain at the Ryder Cup, and cramming in practice the week before with results that made him want to wait.

Love won the Wyndham Championship last year in August at age 51, and it could easily have served as a model for Woods — a power player no longer in his prime, not among the biggest hitters anymore, but with enough experience and talent to find a way to score and to win.

"It has to motivate him that Vijay Singh is lasting until 53, that Ernie is still competitive, that Davis is still competitive," Love said. "He knows Jack Nicklaus won the Masters in 1986 playing part-time. He knows what everybody has done. I know he's working hard not to come back and be average. He wants to come back and win again." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

IN BRIEF

Holocaust ice dance routine gets mixed reviews

Olympic ice-dancing gold medallist Tatiana Navka and dancing partner Andrei Burkovsky have caused controversy by dressing up in concentration camp uniforms for a routine on a popular television show in Russia.

The pair dressed in striped uniforms bearing yellow six-pointed stars and were heavily made-up to look bruised and frail.

While some Russians were indignant at what some saw as mockery of the memory of the dead, others posted messages of support on Navka's Instagram account, saying that the dance brought tears to their eyes.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Baseball representatives to meet about new CBA

Negotiators for baseball players and owners are meeting this week in Irving, Texas, in an attempt to reach consensus on a collective bargaining agreement to replace the five-year contract that expires Thursday. After eight work stoppages from 1972-95, baseball has had 21 years of labour peace.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Another tough time for Connor?

NHL

Kadri to go hard at McDavid once more as Leafs visit Edmonton

Nazem Kadri popped out from the private area in the Toronto Maple Leafs' training facility Monday to face the media in a splendid, purple suit, replete with a perfect white shirt, and sunglasses tucked into the breast pocket.

While he looked sharp in a purple suit as the Leafs set out on a three-game, western road trip, it remains to be seen how good he'll look when they face the Oilers Tuesday night at the Rogers Centre in Edmonton.

That game has already been billed as a rematch between Oilers' superstar Connor McDavid, and Kadri, who shutdown McDavid Nov. 1 in Toronto. It was arguably the most aggressive and effective checking McDavid has faced since he's been in the NHL.

"Just get in his way, be physical, be hard on him. If you are anything else, but hard, he'll make plays and embarrass you," Kadri said as the Leafs jetted off for games this week in Edmonton, Calgary, and Vancouver.



Nazem Kadri got physical with Connor McDavid in the Oilers' Nov. 1 visit to Air Canada Centre.

CLAUS ANDERSEN/GETTY IMAGES

Kadri and the Leafs are certainly looking forward to the challenge of McDavid, as well as facing the Flames — where

rumours were simmering the past few days about potential Leaf interest in defenceman Dougie Hamilton. Then, it's

on to Vancouver, and a rematch of a Nov. 5 game in Toronto where the two teams engaged in a brawl, sparked in

part by Kadri's controversial hit on Daniel Sedin.

Kadri and linemate Leo Komarov have even more fire on their line as they enter this western swing.

Nikita Soshnikov, who was bumped onto their line Saturday after an injury to William Nylander, practised with them again Monday.

Soshnikov adopts the same, "get-under-your-skin" playing style that has earned Kadri and Komarov reputations around the NHL for being tough to play against.

"I was joking about that the other day with one of the guys ... I'd be annoyed if I had to play against those guys all night," Leafs centre Tyler Bozak said.

For Babcock, Kadri has been nothing short of impressive in the way he has transformed over the past season, from a high-octane forward, to an increasingly reliable, two-way player.

"He's getting better and better," Babcock said. "His growth as far as any player in the league, has been phenomenal. But he has a ways to go too. Sometimes he doesn't have the same detail in his game on the road as he does at home, but he's coming along."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

CFL

Desjardins keeps his Grey Cup promise

Ottawa Redblacks general manager Marcel Desjardins was right. Desjardins surprised many at his first news conference as Redblacks GM in 2013 when he laid out lofty expectations for the expansion franchise.

"It's going to be a process," he said at his introduction. "I would say hopefully that by the second year we're more competitive and the third year we're competing for a playoff spot if not a Grey Cup." Three years later, Desjardins addressed media again as architect of a Grey Cup champion after the Redblacks defeated the heavily favoured Calgary Stampeders 39-33 in overtime on Sunday in the 104th CFL final. Reminded of his comments on Monday, Desjardins reflected on the past three years and the growth of the Redblacks.

"I certainly thought it was possible," said Desjardins. "We matured last year even though we lost, but I think that gave us some resolve in terms of what it would take to take that final step and fortunate to get it done (Sunday)." While much of the credit for the Redblacks' achievements goes to head coach Rick Campbell and veteran quarterback Henry Burris, Desjardins was instrumental to the Redblacks' overall success.

Desjardins was involved in every decision from the selection of Campbell as the head coach, to the signing of players and the development of the franchise from the ground up to entice quality players to sign in Ottawa.

The result was Ottawa winning its first CFL title since the Rough Riders were victorious in 1976. THE CANADIAN PRESS



Grey Cup MVP Henry Burris

VAUGHN RIDLEY/GETTY IMAGES

IN BRIEF

Lowry makes 3-pt history as Raptors rip 76ers apart

Kyle Lowry was perfect from three-point range in a 24-point performance on Monday, leading the Toronto Raptors to a 122-95 shootout victory over the Philadelphia 76ers.

Lowry is the first player in Raptors history to shoot 6 for 6 from beyond the arc. Terrence Ross added a season-high 22 points for Toronto (11-6).

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Ivan Hlinka Memorial Cup now Canada bound

Though it's named for one of the most influential people in Czech hockey history, the Ivan Hlinka Memorial Cup tournament is taking up

partial residency in Canada.

Hockey Canada announced Monday that it has reached an agreement with the Czech Ice Hockey Association and the Slovak Ice Hockey Federation to host the prestigious U-18 tournament, beginning in 2018. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Flames stranded by Islanders

Thomas Hickey scored 3:07 into overtime, helping the New York Islanders again find their footing at home with a 2-1 win over the Calgary Flames on Monday night.

Islanders' John Tavares opened the scoring before Sean Monahan tied it for the Flames. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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YESTERDAY'S ANSWERS

Your daily crossword and Sudoku answers from the play page.

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5	4	2	6	9	7	3	8	1
1	8	9	5	4	3	6	2	7
6	7	3	1	8	2	4	5	9
7	1	6	3	5	8	2	9	4
4	3	8	7	2	9	1	6	5
9	2	5	4	1	6	8	7	3
3	9	4	8	6	5	7	1	2
2	6	1	9	7	4	5	3	8
8	5	7	2	3	1	9	4	6

MAKE IT TONIGHT

Cheesy French Onion Soup



PHOTO: MAVA VISNVEI

Ceri Marsh & Laura Keogh
For Metro Canada

The debate should be over the cheese to crouton ratio in this pub favourite.

Ready in 30 minutes

Prep time: 10 minutes
Cook time: 20 minutes
Serves 4

Ingredients

- 2 onions, thinly sliced
- 1 clove of garlic, minced
- 2 Tbsp butter
- 2 tsp sugar
- 1 Tbsp fresh thyme
- Salt and pepper to taste
- 1 Tbsp flour
- 1 Tbsp balsamic vinegar
- 4 cups beef stock
- half a stick of baguette
- 1 cup grated Gruyère and Parmesan mixed

Directions

1. In a Dutch oven, melt but-

ter and toss onion slices, garlic, sugar, thyme and pinch of salt and pepper. Cook over medium low heat for 15 to 20 minutes, stirring frequently, until onions soften.

2. Sprinkle the flour over the onion mixture and stir. Add the vinegar and a cup of stock. Stir well, scraping the bottom of the pot to deglaze. Add the rest of the stock and simmer for 10 minutes.

3. Turn your oven onto broil. Cut bread into 1-inch thick slices. Cut as many slices as bowls of soup you'll be serving. Lay them on a cookie sheet and put a layer of the cheese mix on each piece. Broil in oven until cheese melts and bread is golden brown.

4. Remove bread from oven and cut into pieces. Ladle the soup into bowls and top with a slice of bread's worth of croutons.

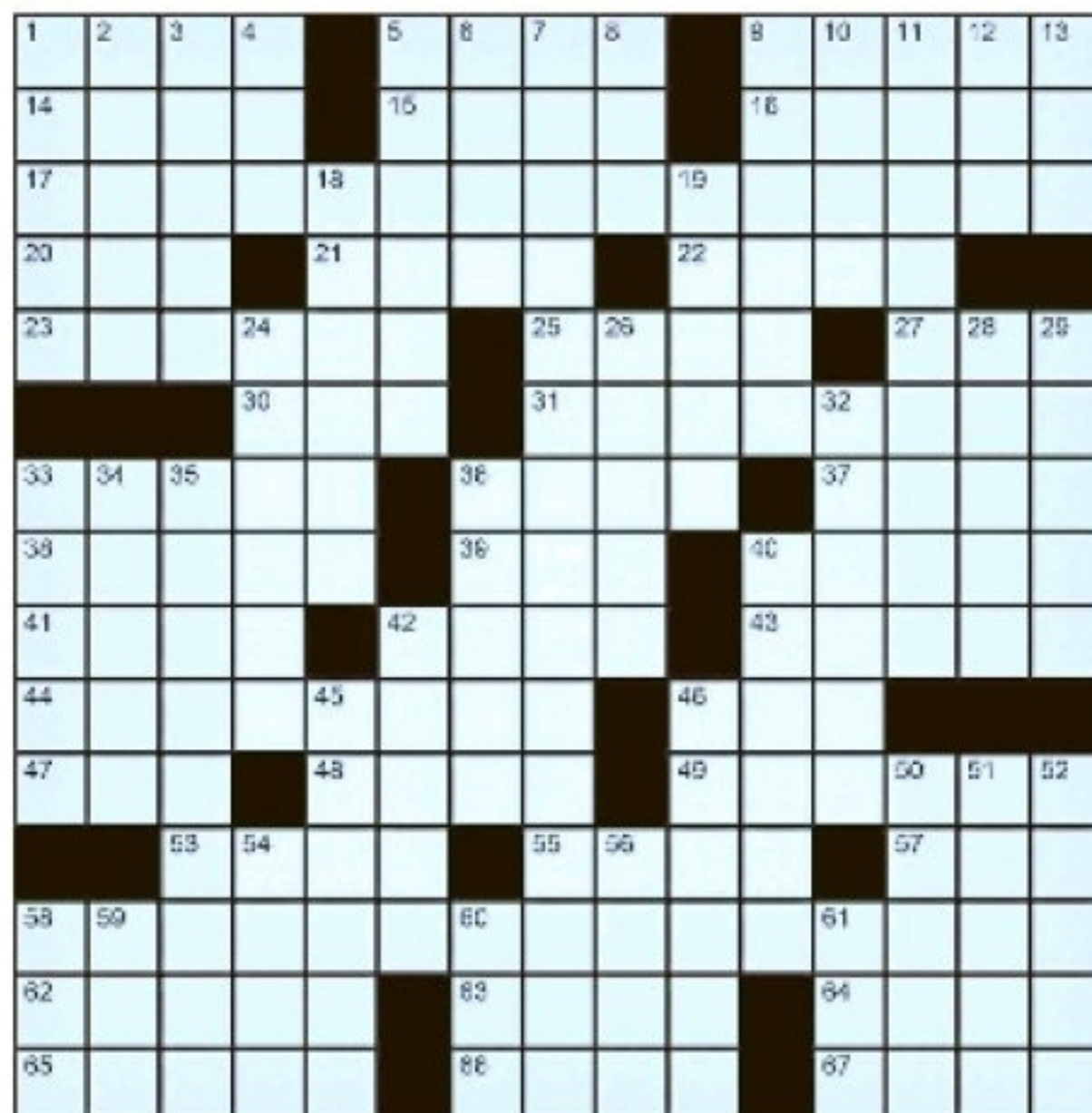
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ACROSS

1. Club drink
5. Abundant
9. Eclipse variety
14. Above
15. Adjoin
16. Cartoon style of Japan
17. Like a movie or TV production with an East Coast setting, maybe: 3 wds.
20. Carpenter
21. Conceal
22. Intensely dislike
23. Harvester
25. Space: Primordial matter
27. Li'l photo taker
30. Entries
31. Item worn under a sheer blouse
33. Newfoundland's Banks
36. Novembre, par exemple
37. Rapper, T-
38. Sloughs off, States-style
39. Every
40. Chatters
41. X- knife
42. NBC personality Ms. Kotb
43. Milo of "Romeo and Juliet" (1968)
44. Wintertime hazard: 2 wds.
46. "The _ of Us" (1994)
47. Mr. David of "Curb Your Enthusiasm", to pals
48. Put on _ (Complete the suit look)
49. Ludicrous
53. South's opposite ... as a typo
55. Singer sampled on



- Eminem's "Stan"
57. Philosopher, _-tzu
58. Realm for Canadian food brands Clover Leaf and Brunswick: 2 wds.
62. "Weird Al" Yankovic spoof hit: 2 wds.
63. Indigo dye

64. Bark's coveree
65. Rosebud, and others
66. Ms. Hudson
67. Wool

DOWN

1. Up to now: 2 wds.
2. Sheep-like

3. Northwest Territories... Mackenzie
4. Fortify
5. Devices for detecting
6. "Sacred" bird of ancient Egypt
7. 1989 chart-topper for American rapper Tone-Lo: 3 wds.

8. Shakespearean suffix
9. Submarine meat layer
10. Taking action: 2 wds.
11. Pro to counsel with about goals and challenges: 2 wds.
12. "I _ Thief" (1934)

- starring Mary Astor
13. Pal to Fido or Rover
18. Alters the text
19. "Pardon me..." [pl.]
24. Patchy-coated horses
26. "Dancing with the Stars" alum Ms. Ali
28. Similar
29. High IQ society
32. Cramps
33. Google service
34. Mo _ (Correspondent on CBS' "Sunday Morning")
35. Interchange
36. New Zealand language
40. BC: Community on Cowichan Lake
42. _-tro
45. Futuristic cards at the carnival
46. Aerosmith: "Back in the _"
50. Ne plus _ (Perfection)
51. Less grilled at the steakhouse
52. Respected group member
54. Wizard _ (Comic strip)
56. 'A' of Vivica A. Fox or 'J' of Michael J. Fox, briefly
58. The Outsiders author Ms. Hinton's
59. 'Ether' ender
60. Fargo, North _
61. Farm enclosure

IT'S ALL IN THE STARS Your daily horoscope by Francis Drake

Aries March 21 - April 20
An unexpected flirtation with a boss or someone in authority might occur today. Certainly, right out of the blue, people in power are impressed with you for some reason!

Taurus April 21 - May 21
Unexpected opportunities to travel might fall into your lap today. Act quickly, because this window of opportunity will be brief. Flirtations with someone different also might excite you.

Gemini May 22 - June 21
Surprise gifts, goodies and favors from others can come your way today. If this happens, say "yes" — quickly! Keep your pockets open

Cancer June 22 - July 23
A friend or partner might please you in an unexpected way today. He or she might even sweep you off your feet. Be open to whatever happens.

Leo July 24 - Aug. 23
Unexpected praise and possibly a raise will come your way at work today. For some reason, people admire you. Just say, "Thank you!" This is your good fortune.

Virgo Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
A surprise invitation to a fun event will please you today. Likewise, an unexpected flirtation might amaze you. Sports events will have unexpected results. Meanwhile, because this is a mildly accident-prone day for your kids, be vigilant.

Libra Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
You might unexpectedly entertain at home today, or you might buy something beautiful for your home. Real-estate opportunities look good as well.

Scorpio Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
This is an enjoyable, exciting day because you're meeting new people and seeing new places. You're also full of clever, bright new ideas! It's a strong day for writers, salespeople, actors and teachers.

Sagittarius Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
Many of you will see ways to boost your income today or to make money down the road. Trust your moneymaking ideas. (You might even get a raise.)

Capricorn Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
This is an exciting, social day for you! You're ready for adventure and something different, which is why you are attracted to people who are unusual. Stay flexible today.

Aquarius Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
Secrets might be revealed today. Something unexpected is taking place behind the scenes. Because you sense this, you feel a bit restless and excited.

Pisces Feb. 20 - March 20
You might meet someone new today who is bohemian or avant-garde. Or perhaps someone you already know will do something that completely amazes you!

CONCEPTIS SUDOKU by Dave Green

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